



Puget Sound Shellfish Unit
Port Townsend Office * 375 Hudson Street * Port Townsend, WA 98368
Phone: (360) 302-3030* FAX: (360) 302-3031

April 25, 2022

Dear Puget Sound Shrimp Trawl Fishers and Buyers:

Attached are the season opening letter, a table of spot and non-spot shrimp harvest quotas, recreational and commercial targets, and maps of non-spot shrimp harvest areas for the 2022 shrimp trawl fishery.

Also enclosed are the season opening emergency (temporary) regulations that pertain to the 2022 commercial shrimp pot fishery, for your reference. Both permanent and emergency rules must be read together for a complete understanding of the 2022 season regulations. For example, the emergency rule currently in effect, a copy of which is enclosed, indicates the opening date and time for the shrimp pot and trawl fisheries, whereas permanent rules do not regulate such dates. The updates to commercial permanent rules that we notified you about in January which were reviewed and approved by the commission in February are now in effect. The language of those changes can be accessed on the [Department's website](#). The legislative webpage should be updated in the near future to reflect these updates but unfortunately does not reflect them currently. Please review the regulatory provisions and the rules and contact us if you have questions. All of these materials and links to them will be available on the new commercial shrimp website which will be made public in the near future.

Observer Coverage

Listings for three species of rockfish, eulachon, and green sturgeon under the Federal Endangered Species Act has prompted that all shrimp fisheries in Puget Sound be covered by an Incidental Take Permit (ITP) applied for by the Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife (Department), and authorized by the National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) due to potential interactions with the species. Congruent with the requirements of WDFW's ITP, onboard observer coverage will be required in the 2022 Puget Sound shrimp trawl fishery.

WDFW will supply observers to conduct sampling on commercial trawl vessels. Harvesters will need to coordinate with the WDFW staff listed below to schedule these trips. The conditions of the current permit require that at least 10% of the shrimp trawl trips be monitored by an observer.

Exception for observer coverage Catch Area 25A:

In Catch Area 25A observer coverage greater than 10% may be required for vessels that do not have a Bycatch Reduction Device (BRD). Vessels fishing in Catch Area 25A with nets that do not have a Department-approved BRD are required to have observer coverage as follows: a minimum of 20% trip coverage for the first 50,000 pounds of 25A trawl harvest; and 10% trip coverage for over 50,000 pounds of 25A trawl harvest, as identified by the Department. Vessels with a Department-approved BRD are required to have 10% trip coverage in 25A, as identified by the Department. The first 25A onboard observer trip **must** be conducted by the 5th trawl fishery trip.

Commercial regulations adopted by the WDFW Commission require owners and operators in the shrimp trawl fishery to obtain a permit from the WDFW Director to conduct their fishery. This permit describes the observer coverage requirement and conditions that must be supplied to observers to conduct on-board sampling. For the 2022 season, WDFW will supply observers to conduct sampling on commercial trawl fishing vessels. Owners and/or operators of commercial shrimp trawl fishing vessels will provide a cellular telephone number to the Department where they can be contacted regarding upcoming fishing trips.

WDFW will monitor the shrimp trawl fishing trip activity via daily landing hails and will attempt to “mimic” the overall trip activity by fisher, area, and month with the observed trip scheduling. When an observed trip is due to be conducted, management staff will contact the fisher to coordinate the observed trip and acquire trip details (date, location and time of departure) that will be provided to the observer.

Quota Changes:

The 2022-2023 Region 1 Shrimp Management Plan allows a transfer non-spot shrimp quota from trawl to pot fisheries during the season with a 60/40 split between coonstripe and pink shrimp. Managers will monitor trawl harvest through the season and transfer those trawl pounds to the pot fishery if the remaining trawl quota is sufficient to allow the transfer. Transfers can only occur after August 15, 2022.

Season Structure:**SMA 1**

Non-spot shrimp beam trawl harvest is permitted as indicated in the following table starting one hour before official sunrise until further notice.

Geographic Area Description (WAC 220-320-140 (3))	Status	Opening Date
Catch Area 20A outside of those waters north and east of a line from Point Roberts Light (48.9716°, -123.0838°) to Sandy Point Light at the Lummi Reservation (48.7868°, -122.7124°)	Open	8/1/2022
Those waters of Catch Area 21A north and west of a line from the southern tip of Sinclair Island (48.6097°, -122.6572°) to Carter Point (48.6404°, -122.6088°) on Lummi Island.	Open	7/1/2022

Non-spot shrimp beam trawl harvest is permitted starting one hour before official sunrise in the areas detailed below contingent on the harvester bringing an on-board observer on the first trip into the area. If by-catch sampling criteria are not met these areas will open on the later dates described in WAC 220-340-530(5d,e).

Geographic Area Description (WAC 220-320-140 (3))	Status	Opening Date
Subregion 1B, MFSF Catch Area 20B.	Open	5/16/2022
Those waters of Lopez Sound within subregion 1B that are south of a line projected true east-west from the northern tip of Trump Island (48.5064°, -122.8369°).	Open	5/1/2022
That portion of Catch Area 22A within subregion 1B that are east of a line projected along -122.7833° longitude (east of Blakely Island) and west of a line projected along -122.7167° longitude (west of Cypress Island) in Rosario Strait.	Open	5/1/2022

The shrimp trawl fishery in SMA 1 will remain open until October 15, or until harvest shares are reached, whichever comes sooner.

SMA 3

The shrimp trawl fishery in SMA 3 (outside of the Discovery Bay Shrimp District, Catch Area 23D and Sequim Bay) is scheduled to open at 6:00 a.m. on May 1, 2022.

The shrimp trawl fishery in SMA 3 (outside of the Discovery Bay Shrimp District, Catch Area 23D and Sequim Bay) will remain open until September 30, or until harvest shares are reached, whichever comes first.

Exception for Catch Area 25A: As per the 2022 Region 3 State-Tribal Shrimp Management Plan, there will be a 3,000 pound (per side) buffer for the estimated spot shrimp bycatch in the 25A trawl fishery and to account for increasing recreational interest in the area. As the season progresses portions of this set aside may be transferred back to the pot fishery allocation based on bycatch projections. If the estimated upper limit of spot shrimp bycatch is reached, Catch Area 25A will be closed to trawling for the season. This is not a “per boat” bycatch limit. If any single boat or combination of boats reaches the limit, then the 25A trawl fishery will close.

Further details regarding Catch Area 25A spot shrimp bycatch:

The spot shrimp bycatch will be estimated using observer data. From observed trips the rolling mean of the percent spot shrimp bycatch (within the pink shrimp catch) for each vessel will be calculated and multiplied by the 25A catch to date for each vessel, providing an estimate of total spot shrimp bycatch for each vessel to date. Bycatch for all vessels will be added together to provide an estimate of the total spot shrimp caught and released. For "payback" purposes the mortality rate for released spot shrimp is assumed to 100%.

Area Boundary GPS Coordinates

As part of the recent commercial rules package update, MFSF area boundaries and lines associated with restrictions were clarified with GPS coordinates rather than land-based structures. These can be found in WAC and are formatted as decimal degrees DDD.DDDD°.

New Puget Sound Commercial Shrimp Webpage

Beginning in 2022, there will be a new webpage dedicated to housing information regarding Puget Sound commercial shrimp fisheries. Harvesters will be able to locate specific information about their fishery such as current regulations, up to date landings, and electronic forms used to fulfill reporting requirements. See: [WDFW Commercial Shrimp Webpage](#)

Electronic Quick Reporting Form

All commercial trawl shellfish buyers are required to submit a Quick Report in addition to filling out the normal required DFW Shellfish Receiving Ticket. Quick Reports should be submitted by 10:00 AM the day following all landings. Use the new electronic form available on the new Puget Sound commercial shrimp website under 'Reporting Forms' or link to the form directly with your phone camera via the QR code below. You may still submit a Quick Report to Shrimp.Report@dfw.wa.gov or FAX (360) 302-3031 with the following information:

- Landing Date and Landing Type (Beam Trawl)
- Dealer contact info (Name, phone, email, permit #)
- Quota area(s)
- Landing amount (LBS)

Puget Sound Quick Report Link: [PS Shrimp Quick Report](#)



In-season Communication

Harvesters and license holders will be directed to view the new [Puget Sound commercial shrimp webpage](#) for up to date opening and closure announcements. Communication with managers should be through email or phone using the contact information detailed below.

Shellfish Harvest Logbooks

Harvesters are required to submit completed shellfish harvest logbooks (WAC 220-340-030). Logbook information is critical for the short and long-term management of the fishery and all of the information requested is necessary to understand harvest patterns. All information requested on the logbook page must be completed correctly, legibly, and completely. Using ditto marks or arrows to indicate information that remains the same between lines is acceptable.

Record the latitude and longitude in Degrees and Decimal Minutes (DDD° MM.MM') to the nearest **hundredth of a minute** at the start of each tow. Example: 44° 56.16', 123° 44.85'.

Record the fish ticket serial number in the rightmost column of the log at the time of sale, or before leaving the last catch site of the day if the vessel operator holds a wholesale dealer license and is the original receiver of the catch. **Record the fish ticket serial number on the same row as data for the last day and tow of landings that are included on that fish ticket.**

For any spot shrimp caught: record the estimated pounds of spot shrimp caught and released in the SPOTS column of the harvest log.

Additional harvest logs will be sent upon request. For replacement logs contact Daniel Sund at (360) 302-6372 or Brad Speidel at 253-263-5560. Directions for completing the logs are shown on the inside of the front cover, and an example of a completed log is shown on the inside of the back cover. Pull out and submit all completed pages to WDFW crustacean staff when you are done fishing for the month. Completed logs can be dropped off in-person or mailed to:

Commercial Shrimp Harvest Manager
Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife
375 Hudson Street
Port Townsend, WA 98368

To order Fish Ticket books: Please contact

Please contact fish.tickets@dfw.wa.gov.

Please review the regulatory provisions and the above information carefully before fishing, and feel free to contact [crustacean](#) management staff at the contact info listed below.

Have a safe and productive 2022 season.

Sincerely,

Daniel Sund, Commercial Crustacean Management Biologist, Port Townsend
(360) 302-6732 cell

Brad Speidel, Commercial Crustacean Management Biologist, Port Townsend
(253) 263-5560 cell

Katelyn Bosley, Lead Crustacean Management Biologist, Port Townsend
(360) 302-3030 x319

Cc: Kirt Hughes
Aaron Dufault
Cpt. Maurstad
Cpt. Chadwick